

I. AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following description of figures 1a and 1b on page 2, between lines 26 and 27.

--Brief Description of the Figures

Figure 1a—PCR reactions using DNA purified from *Listeria monocytogenes* and DNA primers specific for sequences of *Listeria monocytogenes* designated LM23 (23 base pairs) and LM24 (24 base pairs) that are linked to a dextran polymer of high molecular weight.

Figure 1b—PCR reactions using DNA purified from *Listeria monocytogenes* and DNA primers specific for sequences of *Listeria monocytogenes* designated LM23 (23 base pairs) and LM24 (24 base pairs) that are linked to a dextran polymer of high molecular weight in the presence or absence of $MgCl_2$.--